

April 25, 2012

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom It May Concern:

PUBLIC COMMENT: 99-25

I'm writing to express my support for increasing the power limit of LPFM stations as well as to oppose any and all preferential scoring for "Native Nations" or any other group.

A small non-profit I was affiliated with filed an application in the last NCE filing window. I'm from a small, rural town an hour and a half northeast of Tulsa, Okla. Our consultants were hopeful that, due to our distance from the metro area, our application might be a singleton. When all was said and done, we had 16 competing applications, making us one of the larger MX groups to be sorted out. Due to the nature of the scoring for NCE applications, it encourages applicants to apply for the largest coverage area possible, when the non-profit applicant might only truly serve a much smaller area. So, obviously, there are flaws to that process I won't further address here.

As for LPFM, it is vital to small communities, especially as true localism is rapidly disappearing from most corporate-owned radio stations. There must be a means for a small, rural community of 600, like Welch, Okla., where I live, can have access to the public spectrum for applicants who are truly dedicated to providing local radio programming. Ideally, the FCC would adopt rules that applicants could be allowed adequate power to cover the community they serve. As I understand the current question, the Commission is considering a 250-watt maximum power. It makes great sense to give small populations the opportunity to be served by a truly local broadcaster, who will undergird the sense of community, while also providing needed communications in time of disaster and/or emergency.

I currently run a small news and information website for the local community, and people greatly appreciate it. There are limitations, though. There are segments of the population who still do not do the "online" thing, yet they would greatly benefit from the news and information we share. If a local applicant were allowed to use the public airwaves to share the same type of information, it would make it almost universally accessible. Further, an increase in the power limit would be very beneficial because, in certain parts of the country, population density makes a larger coverage area necessary to serve the entire community. In our case, we have no local traditional media. Being a small town, we're largely ignored by media in surrounding communities. Like most things, if it's going to happen for our town, it's going to be up to someone local to do it. I'm confident that there are those willing to serve the community if they can be allowed some of the public spectrum, and increasing the maximum allowed power will make the potential audience large enough to make the investment of time and resources worthwhile.

Further, as to the suggestion of giving preferential treatment to "Native Nations," I

vehemently oppose the suggestion. My wife is a tribal member, and we're proud of her heritage. That said, no group should be given any preference in scoring, other than those who can demonstrate that they are truly dedicated to local programming. The rules should support the goal of the Act. It is a non sequitur to artificially benefit Native Nations as a means of bringing about increased community radio. The playing field should be level for all applicants.

Lastly, once the rules are finally hammered out, the Commission should make filing windows as frequent as possible to assure that local broadcasters have the opportunity to serve their communities.

Thank you for your efforts, and I hope the rules adopted will truly begin a process of starting a local broadcasting revolution in America.

Sincerely,

s/Tyson D. Wynn

Tyson D. Wynn